

White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 11, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Paul Schwarz. In attendance were Trustees Barrera, Haynes, James, Matthews-Serra Scherer and Schwarz. Absent with notice were Trustees Connors, D'Ambrosio, Furth and. Also in attendance were Library Director Brian Kenney, Assistant Library Director Kathy Degyansky, Foundation Executive Director, Libby Hollahan and Library Director's Secretary, Sandra McDaniel.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 14, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2014 were approved as submitted on a MOTION by Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee James.

Budget:

City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department for June 4, 2014 were reviewed.

Bills: 2013/14 Budget: #19, #20

President Schwarz reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Haynes approved payment of bill vouchers #19, #20, on a MOTION.

Report of Library Administration

Library Director Kenney advised the Board that we would go over the budget with our electrical costs due to the extreme weather (Polar Vortex) we experienced. Mr. Kenney noted that this was a citywide problem and he was meeting with Eileen Bradley tomorrow to discuss it.

Mr. Kenney discussed the 6th grade visits to the library that were very successful and President Schwarz described his experience volunteering at the event. Library Director Kenney also noted that White Plains Art Show generated a good crowd and Assistant Library Director Degyansky met with the teachers from the Art Show and was trying to make it an annual event.

Mr. Kenney gave an overview on the Foundation's new initiative to update/refurbish The Trove for its 10th Anniversary next year. Library Director Kenney distributed a document with a preliminary budget for updating technology, furniture and equipment.

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Mr. Kenney noted a few upcoming events: the library was co-sponsoring with the White Plains Recreation and Parks Department a Shakespeare in the Park event to be held on July 15-16 at Turnure Park and he was also working on a conference in the fall relating to independent self-publishing that would be sponsored by Publishers Weekly.

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS –

Friends –

Foundation – Ms. Hollahan stated that at the Friends Regular Meeting she announced that the Friends of the Library would be an honoree at the Fall Gala in appreciation of their 67 years of service. Ms. Hollahan noted that she been working on the budget which would go before the Board this month as well as the new program, Summer TV Camp, which starts in July.

Other –

Old Business:

Library Director Kenney remarked that the City of White Plains Budget and Management Advisory Committee had recommended that the Cable TV operations (WPCM) move into the library and there has been no further action other than trying to obtain a feasibility study. President Schwarz stated that in light of the fact that the next phase of the construction would not start for another year or so, the topic should be tabled for now.

On a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Scherer, the revised Digital Video Surveillance Policy was approved.

New Business:

President Schwarz appointed a committee of three people (Trustees Schwarz, Barrera and Furth) to compile criteria for the library director's evaluation. Trustee Schwarz would send a copy of the evaluation form to everyone on the Board asking for their input. Trustee Matthews-Serra requested that the reason behind choosing the evaluation form be included with evaluation form that was chosen.

Library Director Kenney stated that Teen Librarian Carlson approached him with the idea of giving amnesty to teen cardholders with fines if they joined the summer reading program as a way to encourage them to read. The Board discussed forgiving overdue fines and/or lost books.

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An amnesty pilot program that would forgive overdue fines and/or lost books to teens at the summer reading registration was approved on a MOTION by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Haynes.

Library Director Kenney introduced a new topic which were two statistical charts that showed that although our circulation rate was down our door count (attendance) was up. These shifts are in line with other libraries in the county and across the country.

John Lolis gave a presentation on the State of Library Technology where he discussed the free classroom software that MathWorks has provided that would be the basis for a new program for teens to include coding and robotics. Mr. Lolis noted that The Edge now has web filtering. Mr. Lolis explained the need to replace our aging equipment (10 years old) as evidenced by the failure of the firewall and router in May. Mr. Lolis has had to jury-rig equipment which has been very time consuming and would like to request that funding for a new server and PCs be put in the budget.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Haynes.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees